

American Farm Bureau Federation *Partners in Agricultural Leadership - Class 7*

Background

Partners in Agricultural Leadership (PAL) is designed to further encourage and enhance leadership skills built through participation in the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Discussion Meet, the AFBF Achievement Award, the AFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award, the AFBF YF&R Committee or chairing a state YF&R Committee. This advanced leadership development training program promotes personal growth in participants by building upon the foundation of leadership skills attained through these YF&R programs. The PAL program is built as a partnership between American Farm Bureau and our agribusiness sponsors. Its purpose is to provide additional tools needed to expand leadership roles in order to serve YF&R, AFBF and the entire agricultural industry.

Eligibility

Each state is eligible to make one nomination for the class based on the following criteria:

- Nominee shall be a member in good standing with their county Farm Bureau.
- Nominee shall be a voting Farm Bureau member.
- Nominee shall be an individual, unlike some YF&R programs, in which couples apply together.
- Nominee shall be an individual between the ages of 30-40 who meets one of the qualifying criteria:
 - Sweet 16 finalists of the AFBF YF&R Discussion Meet
 - Top 10 finalists of the AFBF Achievement Award
 - Top 10 finalists of the AFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award
 - Retired members of the AFBF YF&R committee
 - Retired chairs of a state YF&R Committee
 - Finalists from the PAL class 6 (2011) program application process
- Nominee must complete an application and be willing to meet the service commitments listed below.
- County, state and American Farm Bureau employees are not eligible to apply.

Service Commitments

Applicants must agree to the following criteria to compete:

- Attend four training workshops and graduation with class members from June 2013 to February 2015. These workshops are tentatively scheduled for
 - June 2-6, 2013—New York City
 - September 22-26, 2013—Washington, D.C.
 - February 16-23, 2014—Brazil
 - September 15-18, 2014—St. Louis
 - Graduation module at the Joint Leadership Conference in February 2015
- Conduct hometown presentations, community roundtables, day-in-the-life and consumer-engagement videos to hone skills.
- Develop a portfolio for presentation of your advocacy and learning during your involvement in the PAL program.
- Participate in the AFBF spokesperson network* as opportunities arise.
- Participate in opportunities offered through other organizations – food, agricultural, etc.

- Complete an evaluation of the program.

* On behalf of the American Farm Bureau Federation you will conduct media interviews, attend AFBF events, participate in FBACT, gain peer-to-peer connection through social networking and blogging, etc.

Entry Form and Application Guidelines

- Do not use abbreviations or acronyms.
- The nominee must fill out and properly complete the application through electronic submission. No additional pages are to be used.
- Please attach and send three letters of recommendation in pdf form as additional files to the application submission. One letter must be from the state Farm Bureau president and at least one letter must be from an individual outside of Farm Bureau.

Application Selection Process

- A panel of three qualified judges will select 15 finalists.
- Scorecard

Leadership Ability	35 points
Leadership Desire	35 points
Knowledge/Grasp of Issues	20 points
<u>Diversity</u>	<u>10 points</u>
Total	100 points
- Finalists will be interviewed and ranked based upon the interview. Regional and commodity diversity will be taken into account. The interview will count for an **additional 25 points** of the scorecard.
- The top 10 finalists will be named as candidates for *Partners in Agricultural Leadership* enrollment with the remaining five named as alternates.
- Candidates and alternates will be notified of their status. Candidates will have two weeks to accept or decline the invitation. Should a candidate decline participation, the first alternate will be contacted and given two weeks to accept or decline until the class is filled.
- Candidates who accept enrollment in the class will be asked to submit a letter of intent. Finalists and/or alternates who cannot participate in the class will be invited to apply the following year.
- Once the class is filled, the training program will begin. The maximum class size is 10 members.

Photographs

Please attach one portrait headshot picture of you. Please send pictures that are bright and crisp. (Note: All pictures become property of AFBF.)

Deadline and Schedule

Applications must be submitted to the email address, pal@fb.org on or before **5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on March, 1, 2013** to be considered for the *Partners in Agricultural Leadership* program.

Finalists Announced – March, 2013

Interviews Conducted – March-April, 2013

Class Announced – April, 2011

